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SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, WHA, WHA/AND, WHA/PDA
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EMBASSIES FOR PAO/IO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [OPRC](#) [KIRC](#) [KPAO](#) [EC](#) [FTA](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ANDEAN FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT; VENEZUELA; KYOTO PROTOCOL

[1](#). "Peru's Decision on the FTA," an editorial
(12/10) in Quito's leading centrist "El Comercio"
(circ. 70,000)

Quote: " . . . let's hope that Peru's decision and
the upcoming Colombian one serve as an alert as to
the huge risk [involved] in being left on the margins
of neighbors that accept [free trade] negotiations in
the end."

[2](#). "Partners Go to the South," a column (12/10) by
Grace Jaramillo in Quito's leading centrist "El
Comercio" (circ. 70,000)

Quote: " . . . The Andean community is in disorder
and the US is not to blame, but rather a Bolivarian,
President Hugo Chavez. . . The truth is that Chavez
is a difficult phenomenon to understand. His need to
accumulate geopolitical power (at least at the Latin
American level) causes him to make sudden shifts of
direction that lead to unforeseen consequences. . .

"Chavez is tired of dealing with indecisive
presidents such as Palacio, who first make an approach
and then withdraw . . . In the Andean community,
there is no one left to play on his side. . ."

[3](#). "Continuity of the Kyoto Protocol," a front page
editorial (12/02) in Quito's center-left "Hoy" (circ.
38,500)

Quote: " . . . Despite US resistance, the resolution
that came out of this meeting [the UN Summit on
Climate Change in Montreal] represents a step forward
because it maintains the international commitment to
reduce emissions of green house gases that cause
global warming . . . The agreement to continue down the
path set by the Kyoto Protocol is a positive step for
the entire world."

JEWELL